

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application, of which claims 14-18 have been amended.

No new claims have been added.

Claims 15, 16 and 17 stand objected to for various informalities which have been corrected in the aforementioned amendments.

Claims 1, 13, 14 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,334,572 to Iwaguchi et al. (hereinafter "**Iwaguchi et al.**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

**Iwaguchi et al.** discloses a bar-code reader having a photoelectric conversion unit for converting reflected light from a bar code into an electric signal and a changing point detecting unit for detecting, from the electric signal generated by the photoelectric conversion unit, a changing point at which a white stripe is changed to a black stripe in the bar code wherein the bar code is read based on a plurality of changing points detected by the changing point detecting unit. The bar-code reader includes a determination unit for determining, based on measurement of a distance between changing points, whether a changing point is detected as a true changing point at which a white stripe or a black stripe is changed to a black stripe or a white stripe in a bar code or as a false changing point; and a correcting unit for correcting the changing point detected as the false changing point to the true detecting point based on the changing point determined as the true changing point.

Column 6, lines 51-62 disclose:

The differentiating circuit 3 differentiates the electric signal output from the AP 2 and generates a differential waveform signal as shown in FIG. 4C. The peak detecting unit 4 detects peak points of the differential waveform signal so as to obtain changing points between white stripes, and black stripes of the bar code. In the differential waveform signal generated by the differentiating circuit 3 as shown in FIG. 4C, each plus peak point corresponds to a changing point at which a scanning position is moved from a black stripe to a white stripe and each minus peak point corresponds to a changing point at which the scanning position is moved from a white stripe to a black stripe.

Although FIGS. 4C and 5C show differential waveforms, there is no disclosure in Iwaguchi et al. of either a “dividing unit that divides the differential waveform into a positive waveform and a negative waveform,” as recited in claim 1 of the instant application, or a step of “dividing the differential waveform into a positive waveform and a negative waveform,” as recited in claim 14 of the instant application.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 15-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and also as objected to above, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and overcoming the above objection, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully defer these actions until a FINAL Office Action, if any, is received.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-18, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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